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ANNUAL REPORT

OF

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THE SELECTMEN

OF THE

TOWN OF MEREDITH,

FOR THE YEAR

ENDING MARCH 1, 1862.

CONCORD:

STEAM PRESS OF McFARLAND & JENKS.

1862.

NEW HAMPSHIRE
STATE LIBRARY

R E P O R T.

TOWN OF MEREDITH IN ACCOUNT WITH SELECTMEN.

By cash of county,	\$66.48
of Samuel Bean, (borrowed)	200.00
of last Board of Selectmen,	295.48
of D. S. Bedee, on last year's list, (in full)	233.84
of B. M. Bachelder, on last year's list,	120.00
of Literary Fund,	126.60
for use of Town Hall,	1.00
of county,	78.75
for H. M. Swain's note,	48.00
of John O. Sanborn, for oxen,	100.00
of J. H. Plaisted, (borrowed)	1,000.00
of Marquis D. Robinson, highway tax,	2.34
of R. M. Nichols, for cow,	20.00
of state, railroad tax,	103.60
of town of Laconia, its proportion for supplies furnished Dorcas A. Paul,	30.22
of Laconia, for part of expense in filing papers in town chest,	2.00
of B. D. Plaisted, for balance liquor account,	4.30
of A. Cram, on Collector's list of 1859,	13.24
of James Gilman, for calf,	8.00
of P. P. Nichols, for labor by town team,	1.00
of J. W. Beede, for calf and balance on hats,	3.84
of T. L. Smith, for cattle,	87.00
of town of Tamworth,	9.00
of D. S. Beede, Collector for 1861,	3,272.34
of C. R. Swain, Collector for 1861,	1,552.24
of J. M. & C. S. Prescott, for hides,	5.34
for butter sold from farm,	1.28
of T. L. Smith, for steers and cow,	90.00
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	\$7,475.79

For Schools.

To paid Waldo Maloon, Prudential Com., Dist. No. 1,	\$14.12
Smith Dow, " " " 2,	65.33
John Page, " " " 3,	66.78

To paid G. G. Hoyt, Prudential Committee Dist. No. 4,	92.91
B. D. Plaisted, " " " 5,	280.00
W. H. Wadleigh, " " " 6,	67.23
Hiram French, " " " 7,	42.06
John Neally, " " " 8,	82.24
B. F. Kelsea, " " " 20,	42.82
J. P. Norris, " " " 24,	7.60
Lorenzo D. Dolloff, " " " 11,	38.16
Noah L. True, " " " 16,	31.32
Jacob Smith, " " " 15,	37.79
Charles R. Swain, " " " 9,	44.21
Rufus Clark, " " " 17,	37.94
J. C. Gove, " " " 10,	41.47
W. B. Leavitt, " " " 13,	35.10
D. M. Dearborn, " " " 14,	24.15
W. S. Woodman, " " " 20,	3.18

	\$1,054.41
J. Fred. Perkins, " " " 12,	45.77

	\$1,100.18

For External Poor.

To paid John T. Webster, for boarding Joel Dockham,	\$1.75
Dr. Darling, for services to Joseph Moses,	1.25
for medicine for Hiram Crockett,	2.75
town of Laconia, for support of Mrs. J. M. Smith,	11.29
John Piper, for support of David Piper,	49.00
J. H. Tilton, for wood furnished Mrs. Luther San-	
born and Mrs. Marsh,	6.00
Isaac Whitten, for moving Kate Paul,	1.50
Jeremiah Cross, for supplies to Kate Paul,	7.00
Smith Swain, for digging grave for D. Piper,	1.50
Maria E. Craft, for boarding Mrs. J. M. Smith,	6.14
John W. Beede, for Madison Chase,	7.50
John W. Beede, for goods for Joseph Moses,	3.76
town of Northfield, for the support of Kate Paul,	18.67
D. S. Prescott, for doctoring Paul and Clark fam-	
ilies,	12.90
cash to Sarah Jenness,	2.00
Mrs. Brigham, for work for Joshua Jenness family,	2.00
J. M. Beede for railroad ticket to Webster W. Hall,	
(county charge)	2.65
George W. Hall, for support of Mrs. Joel Dock-	
ham, (county charge)	13.87
Mrs. G. W. Hall, for making dress for Sarah Jen-	
ness,	.70

To paid town of Sandwich, for supplies to Isaac Farrar,	4.00
S. H. Cornell, for coffin for Kate Paul,	6.00
for board for Luther Sanborn's boy,	3.00
Hosea H. Hawkins, for supplies to Charles Hall,	3.40
town of Gilford, for burying Luther Sanborn,	11.48
town of Gilford, for supplies to Mrs. Marsh,	9.20
William D. Prescott, for care of William Prescott's boy 7 weeks, at \$2,	14.00
R. K. Parker, for supplies to Clark family,	38.92
George E. Chase, for supplies to Doreas A. Paul and family,	66.00
B. D. Plaisted, for supplies to Sarah Jenness,	12.00
B. D. Plaisted, for supplies to Charles Hall and others,	2.59
town of Upper-Gilmanton, for supplies to Clark family,	7.00
Merrill & Co., for supplies to Geo. Ham's family, George Sanborn's bill, for doctoring Prescott boy while at Center-Harbor,	16.68
John W. Beede, for supplies to Betsey McCrillis,	5.50
James and Jesse Moses, for support of their father,	2.71
town of Grafton and J. C. Chapman, for support of Staples boy,	80.00
cash to George A. Leavitt,	55.07
J. W. Lang & Co., for supplies to Geo. A. Leavitt,	16.00
B. P. Woodman, for meat for Charles Hall,	21.00
J. W. Lang & Co., for cloth for Sanborn boy,	2.82
J. W. Lang & Co., for supplies to J. P. Jenness,	1.14
S. H. Cornell, for coffin for James Bryant child, (paid by Sandwich)	26.50
Mrs. Simeon Taylor, cash,	3.00
Railroad fare for Joel Dockham,	8.00
Wm. T. Elliott, for telegraphing to Blackstone, Mass., (county charge)	1.05
cash to Betsey McCrillis,	.25
cash to Mrs. J. M. Smith,	2.00
cash to D. S. Beede, for keeping transient man over night, .75, and cash paid same man, .25,	1.00
Wm. T. Elliott, for telegraphing to J. Paul,	.30
Nathan Boynton, for keeping transient men over night,	1.00
Dr. George Sanborn, for doctoring J. A. Pickering boy, (county charge)	16.00
John Piper, for care of J. A. Pickering, (county charge)	19.81
John Chapman, for supplies to Luke Potter, (county charge)	4.98

To paid Joseph Ela, for house rent for McMillen, (county charge)	4.00
J. H. Sanborn, for doctoring McMillen, (county charge)	10.50
C. L. Hoyt, for house rent for J. Tebbetts, (county charge)	2.50
John K. Clough, for meat for C. Hall,	.25
Clough, for mending shoes for Betsey McCrillis,	.40
Wm. T. Elliott, for supplies to J. P. Jenness,	1.34
Wm. T. Elliott, for robe for Kate Paul,	2.28
Wm. T. Elliott, for goods for Charles Hall,	3.35
Wm. T. Elliott, for goods for Betsey McCrillis,	1.25
Wm. T. Elliott, for supplies for Geo. Ham's family,	24.88
John W. Beede, for supplies for Berry family, (paid by Tamworth)	2.00
Jacob Paul, cash to buy wood,	2.00
J. H. Sanborn, for doctoring Prescott boy,	1.00
Dr. George Sanborn, for vaccinating,	1.00
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to J. P. Jenness,	19.13
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to Betsey McCrillis,	5.47
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to Mrs. J. M. Smith,	9.40
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to Mrs. B. Robinson,	12.90
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to Simeon Taylor,	7.81
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to Charles Hall,	8.49
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to Sarah Jenness,	1.67
E. Winch & Co., for supplies to N. Boynton,	3.97
for wood for John Dockham,	2.06
for small items for paupers,	.86
for making coat for Joel Dockham,	1.50
Geo. W. Burleigh, for medicine for Charles Hall,	1.34
Levi Leach, for house rent for Betsey McCrillis,	6.00
J. H. Sanborn, for doctoring Berry family, (paid by Tamworth)	7.00
H. H. Smith, for doctoring Taylor and vaccinating,	3.00
Wm. A. Page, for doctoring Jenness family in Sandwich,	20.00
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	\$782.99

For Poor Farm.

To paid J. M. & C. S. Prescott, for shoe work,	\$13.54
G. Maloon, for blacksmith work,	7.62
H. Lovejoy, for plastering at poor house,	3.50
Ezra Standley, for pasturing cattle,	10.00
William Mead, for beef,	4.50
John Page, for fish,	3.75
Fernal & Prescott, for blacksmithing,	1.10

To paid Levi Towle, for beef,	15.41
T. S. Moses, for tin ware, &c.,	4.27
John W. Beede, for supplies,	122.15
S. D. Pease, for yoke of oxen,	75.00
Levi Towle, for cow,	19.00
Mary S. Smith, for work,	3.00
E. Winch & Co., for supplies,	90.28
B. G. Young, for yoke of oxen,	100.00
P. P. Nichols, for wool and for use of bull,	4.53
Thomas L. Smith, for shote,	9.00
Thomas L. Smith, for labor and expenses in going after paupers,	11.25
Thomas L. Smith, for services year ending April 1, 1861,	200.00
Thomas L. Smith, on this year's services,	104.00
Thomas L. Smith, interest on note,	.29

	\$802.19

Breaking Roads in 1860 and 1861.

To paid H. F. Hawkins,	\$1.70
John Webster,	3.80
J. W. Robinson, Plumer road,	1.00
William Eaton,	31.34
Dudley L. Bartlett,	12.78
Alonzo Bickford,	6.50
Thomas I. Sinclair,	28.32
Thomas Cate,	11.72
John Knowlton,	30.80
Gideon Piper,	12.00
David Gilman,	24.54
John Wadleigh,	5.06
Benjamin C. Bachelder,	20.82
David R. Lovejoy,	24.49
Andrew W. Hoit,	15.20
Gilman & Huntress,	13.82
Jeremiah M. Smith,	13.45
Levi Towle,	11.50
Benjamin G. Young,	4.10
Ebenezer S. Robinson,	10.48
John H. Durgin,	10.70
Charles Wadleigh,	6.15
Salmon H. Sanborn,	7.80
Taylor L. Grant,	20.06
John S. Dolloff,	31.52
Daniel P. Smith,	8.75
Charles Chase,	13.25

To paid David Plumer,	4.57
Daniel S. Ranlet,	17.33
Levi S. Swain,	14.65
Chase Fogg,	1.00
Jacob Smith,	14.75
James M. Marston,	14.00
Abram True,	20.95
David Corliss, Jr.,	10.30
Samuel T. Cram,	26.13
Jonathan Brown,	3.28
Robert M. Nichols,	5.35
Aaron M. Smith,	26.75
James C. Wadleigh, for breaking and repairing turnpike,	35.52
Levi W. Sanborn,	9.05
William Neal,	2.10
Amos L. Veasey,	7.45
Timothy C. Gordon,	2.23

	\$597.06

Amount of Bills paid for Breaking Roads in 1861 and 1862.

To paid Levi Towle,	\$21.20
T. P. Abbott,	43.29
David Corliss,	12.40
A. W. Hoitt,	16.42
E. S. Marston,	22.87
D. L. Bartlett,	3.40
J. M. Neal,	6.90
Abram Bryant,	4.89
J. F. Perkins,	10.25
T. E. Lang,	19.67
R. S. Doe,	44.95
B. F. Wiggin,	26.48
John S. Dolloff,	29.57
I. S. Prescott,	16.83
John Smith, 2d,	11.85
Jonathan Brown,	12.60
James H. Plaisted,	33.17
David R. Lovejoy,	19.86
G. W. Shores,	7.15
John Webster,	35.16
John C. Gove,	11.71
Thomas Roberts,	12.20
John Neally,	31.57
John Wadleigh,	6.20
James L. Huntress,	18.10

To paid G. B. Gordon,	1.38
James Roberts,	2.50
B. G. Young,	13.50
C. W. Neal,	27.98
P. P. Nichols,	6.20
John I. Tasker,	6.05
A. E. Leavitt,	17.86
D. S. Ranlet,	17.21
Noah W. Smith,	35.82
Waldo Maloon,	5.75
L. I. Wadleigh,	24.84
S. L. Lawrence,	24.80
Smith Dow,	17.80
Robert Forsaith,	16.08
W. B. Leavitt,	16.10
Z. P. Eaton,	10.11
David Clark,	14.52
John S. Pease,	32.13
G. Piper,	13.50
Shephard Rowe,	23.75
Rufus Clark,	36.25
D. B. Whitcher,	31.22
Hazen Marston,	19.81
Noah L. True,	31.19
Samuel Calef,	35.60
D. N. Drake,	14.60
Ebenezer Dow,	4.45
Salmon H. Sanborn,	12.96
Lucian Kelley,	2.56
B. C. Batchelder,	12.40
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	\$1,007.58

Roads and Bridges.

Thomas P. Perkins, water course,	\$2.68
I. H. Plaistead, labor on Hawkins bridge,	5.62
Willard L. Huntress, covering Hawkins bridge,	15.00
Elijah Paine, labor on " "	.50
William H. H. Furnal,	.64
Charles R. Boynton,	1.50
T. E. Lang, for stone work,	2.95
Willard L. Huntress, abutment for bridge,	10.00
Charles H. Weeks, for repairs on Senter hill,	21.50
Samuel L. Lawrence, stone for culvert,	1.00
Daniel S. Ranlet, for plank,	2.29
John S. Dolloff, " "	4.41
John S. Dolloff, for repairs on road,	20.34

Taylor L. Grant, for culvert,	.75
H. H. Eastman, for repairs on Plumer road,	11.75
H. H. Eastman, for repairs on highway,	15.00
Emerson S. Marston, for culvert,	2.00
John C. Gove, for repairs on road,	7.85
Jeremiah Jenness, for repairs,	1.55
John Knowlton, for "	2.70
N. B. Wadleigh, for plank and timber,	27.86
John W. Beede, for powder and fuse,	2.04
N. Boynton, for work on H. bridge,	.50
Rufus Sayward, for railing for bridge,	1.25
Wm. T. Elliott, for iron for posts on bridge,	1.91
Benjamin Perkins, for plank,	1.90
Simeon D. Pease, for work on new road,	6.00
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	\$171.49

Town of Meredith, for General Expenditures.

To paid Elias Philbrick, for plank,	\$5.41
John K. Clough, for care of town house,	3.00
Dr. J. H. Sanborn, for doctoring poor, 1861,	45.00
N. B. Wadleigh, for lumber for lobby,	21.69
Dr. J. C. Page, for services at town house, accident,	10.00
Samuel Bean, interest on note,	12.00
J. T. Sturtevant, for rent of lobby,	2.50
Geo. S. Cram, for work on lobby,	9.70
Clark & Canney, lumber and work,	4.55
George M. Burleigh, for record books, surveyors' warrants, &c.,	34.25
Mrs. Mary Cox, for damages from stone blown from highway in blasting,	2.75
E. H. Hibbard, for legal advice,	6.00
John Cate, for pump at town farm,	4.50
John L. Sinclair, for damage on highway,	3.00
School District No. 12, error in apportionment,	3.63
Superintending School Committee, for books furnished Dudley Piper's children,	2.60
Geo. H. Norris, for drawing lumber,	1.50
James Morgan & Co., for glass for town house,	4.37
Joseph B. Tilton, Auditor, 1861,	2.00
McFarland & Jenks, for town report and express,	19.25
S. A. Ladd, note and interest,	856.40
John H. Brewster, for check lists,	4.00
A. M. Smith, for labor,	1.00
Joseph W. Lang, Auditor, 1861,	1.00
H. Beede, for watering-trough,	3.00

To paid H. Beede, for services in committing Geo. W. Kelley and others to jail,	6.83
J. W. Beede, for materials for lobby,	8.43
" " wood for town house,	2.25
William Mead, note and interest,	145.24
Morrill & Silsby, for blanks and express,	.38
Nathan Boynton, for drawing stone,	.33
Charles Burnham, for services as Superintending School Committee,	50.00
Charles Burnham, expense for horse hire,	25.00
S. H. Cornell, for labor on lobby,	6.75
Postage stamps,	1.77
Simeon D. Pease, interest on note,	.27
James H. Plaistead, interest on note,	3.00
William T. Elliott, for dispatch to Laconia,	.30
Express on check-lists and money from Concord,	.38
Samuel Bean, interest on note to March 13th,	24.00
For materials for lobby,	12.61
Hand-cuffs and lanterns for police,	4.31
Stephen J. Pitman, for services as Town Clerk,	25.00
Amos Cram, for repairing town house windows,	2.37
Geo. W. Burleigh, for books and medicine for paupers,	2.70
E. Winch & Co., for stationery,	.95
S. W. Rollins, for legal services,	9.00
John Wadleigh, for watering-trough,	1.00
B. C. Tuttle, Auditor,	2.00
S. W. Rollins, for three complaints and warrants and use of office for trials,	10.00
S. J. Pitman, for copying inventory, postage, stationery, cash paid out, &c.,	8.00
Eben'r Stevens, for costs and services as justice in the case Kelly, Boynton and others,	5.75
State tax,	325.50
County tax,	691.65
H. H. Smith, for services in case of Gilmanton vs. Meredith, and for record of births and deaths,	1.55
D. S. Beede, for boarding Selectmen in 1860,	6.75
" " teams to go for paupers and for board of Selectmen,	26.05
Levi Towle, for services as Selectman to March 12,	62.55
" " horse hire and personal expenses,	26.24
" " postage and stationery,	1.50
Simeon D. Pease, services as Selectman to March 12,	54.00
" " horse hire and cash paid out,	14.15
Isaiah Winch, for services to March 12,	77.00
" " horse hire and personal expense,	19.90
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	\$2,728.26

Amount paid for the aid of Wives and Children of Volunteers.

	Per week.	Total.
Mrs. B. M. Bean,	\$3	\$39.00
John Moulton,	3	18.00
John L. Hadley,	1	9.00
Horace Seeggel,	3	36.00
Edward Amidon,	2	24.00
Michael Morris,	3	36.00
John Elliott,	1	10.00
Freeman Hutchins,	2	30.00
John McCrillis,	2	26.00
Mary E. Lawrence,	1	15.00
Asa D. Peabody,	1	7.00
Reuben Bean,	2	16.00
James M. Seavey,	1	5.00
Philip McCrillis,	3	24.00
Stephen Hawkins,	2	12.00
Daniel Bennett,	1	7.80
Ephraim Berry,	3	12.00
Freeman Chase,	2	18.00
Sarah Jenness,	1	6.00
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		\$350.80

The above amount was paid in cash up to the time of the town-meeting held January 7; since which time the above named persons, except Mrs. Hutchins, Mrs. Peabody, Mrs. Berry and Sarah Jenness, have been paid their regular allowance in orders on the different stores, amounting to \$120 per month. The last appropriation will be exhausted about the 1st of June.

RECAPITULATION.

Dr. To whole amount paid out, as follows :

Paid for schools,	\$1,100.18
external poor bills,	782.99
poor farm bills,	802.19
for breaking roads in 1860 and 1861,	597.06
breaking roads in 1861 and 1862,	1,007.61
roads and bridges,	171.49
general expenditures,	2,728.26
to families of volunteers,	350.80
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	\$7,540.58

Cr. By whole amount of receipts, 7,475.89

Balance due Selectmen, \$64.69

Having examined the foregoing accounts of the Selectmen, we find them correctly cast and well vouched.

JOSEPH ELA, }
NOAH PEASE, } *Auditors.*

Invoice of Property at the Poor Farm, March 1, 1862.

1 pair oxen,	\$80.00
1 pair three years old steers,	55.00
4 cows,	95 00
3 yearlings,	26.00
2 shotes,	21.00
10 tons hay,	100.00
Lot of lumber,	5.00
35 bush. corn,	29.17
3½ bush. rye,	2.62
10 bush. wheat,	14.20
3½ bush. beans,	7.87
190 lbs. fresh beef and pork,	12.35
30 cords of wood, at door,	60.00
60 bush. potatoes,	15.00
375 lbs. salt pork,	37.50
250 lbs. salt beef,	17.50
Soap and tub,	3.00
25 lbs. candles,	3.50
12 lbs. tobacco,	3.84
35 lbs. tallow,	3.50
60 lbs. lard,	7.80
32 lbs. butter,	5.00
5 gals. molasses,	2.00
Vegetables,	1.00
Barrels, tubs and articles in cellar,	15.00
½ bbl. flour,	2.50
Household furniture,	140.00
Tools and farming utensils,	75.00
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	\$840.35

NAMES AND AGES OF PERSONS AT THE POOR FARM.

Males.

Benjamin Foss,	78
Smith Leavitt,	67
John W. Sanborn,	46
Joshua Jenness,	44
John Bachelder,	53
Franklin Jenness,	8
Horace F. Prescott,	2

Females.

Rhoda Farrer,	63
Diantha Jenness,	43
Dolly Prescott,	19

Helen S. Prescott,	9
Emma Prescott,	6
Elizabeth F. Prescott,	3
Lydia Jenness,	7
Pamelia A. Jenness,	2

Died at the poor-house during the past year, Kate Paul.

The town will notice that the bills for the support of the family at the poor-house are heavier the past year than usual, which is accounted for by the large increase of the number in the family, and the extremely destitute condition in which the Prescott and Jenness children were on their arrival, rendering it necessary to supply them throughout with new and comfortable clothing.

The external poor bills are larger, too, beyond all precedent, since the town was divided. The descendants of Jacob Paul are costing, and probably will continue, for years to come, to cost a large sum yearly for their support. The number of them which this town is wholly or in part liable to support is fourteen, and *constantly increasing*. It has cost the town during the last year \$110 for the support and burial of Joseph Moses, of Groton. He died in December. The calls for assistance from those within the limits of our town, too, have been unusually numerous, as will be seen by the report.

The Selectmen again beg leave to state to the town their unqualified approval of the manner in which the Master and Mistress at the poor-house have conducted its affairs during the last year. Mr. Smith has made many improvements about the farm, including the building of over forty rods of good stone wall, and, as may be seen, with a very small sum paid out for help. The household affairs have been managed by Mrs. Smith with excellent judgment, tact and economy.

Article 10, in the warrant, calls for an expression of the opinion of the town in regard to the expediency of selling the present Town Farm and purchasing another. It may not be out of place for the Selectmen to state that, in their opinion, there are some very good reasons why a change should be made. In the first place, an addition to the house is necessary, which, with the necessary repairs of the present buildings, will cost about \$400.

The small amount of wood on the farm is an evil that will be seriously felt in a very few years. There is enough, no doubt, with

good management, to furnish a constant supply for a family of moderate size; but it is estimated that, if the present consumption of wood should continue, all the wood on the farm will be exhausted in less than ten years. The town will judge for itself of the expediency of making a change. The Selectmen would not recommend it unless an opportunity for a decidedly good bargain in another farm should present itself.

The financial affairs of the town are as follows:

Liabilities.

David R. Lovejoy, note,	\$123.56
Samuel Bean, "	400.00
David Corliss, "	416.60
Tirzah Corliss, "	347.16
Clarissa Corliss, "	416.60
David Plumer, award for land damage,	45.00
James H. Plaisted, note,	1,003.00
W. A. Sanborn, "	1,091.80
Gideon Piper, "	109.71
Simeon D. Pease, "	102.00
Jesse Moses, account for care of his father,	30.00
J. C. Chapman, account for care of Staples boy,	8.00
Wamesit Engine Company,	70.00
Balance due Selectmen,	64.69
	—————
	\$4,228.12

Assets.

Due on B. M. Bachelder's tax-list for 1860,	\$8.78
on D. S. Beede's tax-list for 1861,	230.00
on C. R. Swain's tax-list for 1861,	505.59
from State for aid to families of volunteers,	350.80
from county for support of paupers,	37.50
	—————
	\$1,132.67
Balance of liabilities,	\$3,095.45

In addition to the above, there will become due, on 1st of April, the Superintending School Committee's and Town Doctor's bills, and the balance due the Overseer of the Poor Farm, amounting, in all, to about \$200.

The foregoing report is respectfully submitted.

LEVI TOWLE, } *Selectmen*
ISAIAH WINCH, } *of*
SIMEON D. PEASE, } *Meredith.*

LIQUOR REPORT.

Town of Meredith in account with Beniah D. Plaistead, Liquor Agent, from Feb. 22, 1861, to Feb. 22, 1862.

DR. To liquors and freight,	\$562.77
services as agent,	50.00
cash paid Selectmen,	4.30
	————— \$616.57
CR. By sales of liquor and casks,	\$516.57
liquors on hand,	100.00
	————— \$616.57

BENIAH D. PLAISTED, *Agent.*

R E P O R T
OF THE
SUPERINTENDING SCHOOL COMMITTEE.

TO THE TOWN OF MEREDITH: The Superintending School Committee submit the following report concerning the condition, progress and wants of the schools in this town.

Schools have been taught in all the districts in town during the last year, and with very good success, for the most part. There is a large number of very promising scholars in our schools, and all they need to make them the JEWELS of the town, is the opportunity to attend school in good school-houses, with competent teachers, and suitable text-books. With regard to school-houses, your Committee are compelled to say they are, the great majority of them, a discredit to the town. But we hope a new and brighter day is beginning to dawn, and that a very few years will completely remedy this deficiency.

The Teachers, as a class, we believe, compare favorably with those in other towns in the vicinity.

The schools now have a uniform series of text-books, introduced the past year by vote of the town, and to the very great advantage of the schools. Both scholars and teachers are generally highly pleased with the change. Says one of the teachers, "I have never used any books which I think are so well adapted to our common schools as those which are now introduced. They are simple and instructive. The spelling-book, I hope, will overcome the long and miserable neglect of definitions." Says another, and one of our best teachers, "I think the change made in the school-books, in this town, is a very good one. It is not only much easier and pleasanter for teachers to have the scholars well classed, but the scholars themselves seem much more interested in their studies." There is a very general lack of apparatus for the illustration and explanation of the studies pursued in our schools, and, as a consequence, the scholars are not as much interested in their studies, and are less thorough.

Parents are not careful enough to see that their children are regular in their attendance. This irregularity is one of the most serious obstacles in the way of progress that our schools have to meet. If you would have good schools, parents must give their children to understand that the teacher must be obeyed, and the regulations of the school must be complied

with. In the vast majority of cases of difficulty between teachers and scholars, the teacher is right and the scholar is wrong, and, as a *general rule*, the teacher is to be sustained. We feel constrained to call the attention of the Prudential Committees of the several districts to one provision of the law: *viz.*, That in reference to the filling up of the Teachers' Registers. The Committee have no legal authority to pay a teacher till his or her Register is returned to the Superintending Committee, properly filled out; and if they do pay the teachers, they are liable to lose the whole amount so paid. Some of the Registers are very deficient.

Parents should bear in mind the fact that our future teachers are the children now being trained in our common schools; and if, in the future, you want good teachers, these children must be properly trained now; trained to obedience, punctuality, thoroughness and accuracy in every branch pursued. Another evil connected with our schools, which parents alone can remedy, is this—taking children out of school because of some dissatisfaction with the teacher. This evil is almost as great as it would be to tell the scholar to have his own way in school. It points in the same direction, and injures the school as a whole, and the scholar so withdrawn in particular.

The school in District No. 1, Bear Island, was taught by Miss Boardman, of Meredith. The school is very small and short. The Register of this district has not been returned to the Committee, and particulars can not be given.

The school in District No. 2 was taught both summer and winter term by Miss M. Abbie Dearborn, of Meredith. She is a teacher of experience, energy, and unwearied diligence, and eminently successful. The school was orderly, and the scholars made very good proficiency in their studies. Twenty-two scholars attended school the summer term, with an average attendance of more than twenty. There were twenty-eight in attendance on the winter term, with an average of twenty-four. The average attendance speaks well, very well for the school. Your Committee visited this school twice each term, and was well pleased with the appearance of the school, the progress of the scholars, and its general management.

The school in District No. 3 was taught both summer and winter term by Miss Esther A. Page, of Meredith. She is an experienced and very excellent teacher. The order was good, and the progress of the scholars was very commendable, considering the shortness of the terms; the summer term being but six weeks, and the winter term seven and a half weeks. This school has some very good scholars, especially in Reading and Arithmetic. The number of scholars was twenty-four in the summer, and twenty-two in the winter. This school your Committee also visited twice each term, and is happy to commend both the school and the teacher.

The school in District No. 4 was taught both terms by Miss Annie Crawford, of Alexandria. She is a teacher of some experience, but, like many other teachers, has not given universal satisfaction. It is but just to her to say that she engaged the school under unfavorable circumstances, because there were some who were unwilling to have her teach it. This fact rendered her position an unpleasant one, and, it is quite probable, made the school more difficult to manage. The summer term was 8 4-5 weeks; winter term 11 weeks. The order in school was very commendable, and the progress made as good as could be expected under the circumstances. The number of scholars in the district is thirty-one; attended during the summer term, eighteen; average attendance, fifteen. Winter term, thirty-one in attendance; *average twenty-two*.

The school in District No. 5, comprising this village, is divided into two departments. The first department was taught during the summer term by Mrs. Laura Plaisted. She has had some experience as a teacher, and was tolerably successful. The order in school was better than usual for this school, and was improving. There is no school in town where the scholars are so irregular in attendance as in this, and none where there is so little excuse for it. I feel ashamed to report the facts, but they ought to be known, and I give them. The number of scholars is thirty-seven, and the average attendance but twenty-four. Two hundred and sixty-two cases of tardiness are reported, and fifty-four dismissals.

The summer term in the second, or less advanced department, was taught by Miss Edna Ela, of this village. She is a good teacher, and secured the confidence and good will of the scholars. The order in school was good, considering the number and age of the scholars. The whole number in this department is fifty-four, and, with three or four exceptions, they were all under ten years of age. Your Committee was well satisfied with the progress made by the scholars.

The winter term in the first, or more advanced division, was taught by Rev. A. B. Meservey, of this place. He is an excellent teacher, a good disciplinarian, and very thorough in the explanation of the principles taught. The order in school was very much better than heretofore; the scholars made very commendable progress in their studies. The number of scholars was 50; average attendance, 39. Eight hundred and thirty instances of tardiness are reported, and three hundred and forty-two cases of dismissal. This is very shameful, and calls loudly for correction. Parents are doing their children a great injury to permit such irregularity.

The winter term in the 2d division was taught by Miss Elvira J. Remis, of Littleton, N. H. She has not had a large experience in teaching, and fails more in government than elsewhere, though it must be confessed there were a number of very unmanageable boys in school, who are not well managed at home, and hence the trouble with them. Notwithstanding these difficulties, the scholars for the most part made commendable progress.

This District, the last spring, purchased a set of globes and charts for the use of the schools, which have been very useful. Of the charts, says one of the teachers, "I consider them indispensable."

Three terms of private school have been taught in the village during the year, by Miss C. M. Poole. This school has taken from twenty to twenty-five scholars from the district school. This has made all the schools better than they would have been.

The school in District No. 6, on Ladd's hill, was taught both terms by Miss Julia A. Davis, of Lake Village. She is a well qualified, experienced, and very successful teacher. The order in this school could not well be better; the school is small, and but few very young children attend. The number of scholars during the summer term was twenty-two; the winter term, eighteen. The scholars evidently respect their teacher, and she infuses much interest into the recitations; her pupils become interested in their studies, and consequently they make rapid progress. I wish we had more such teachers, and more such schools.

The school in District No. 7 (Gen. Wadleigh's), was taught, the summer term, by Miss Sarah H. French, of Meredith. This district, it will be remembered, is partly in Laconia,—eleven scholars only belonging to this town. This teacher has had but little experience in teaching, but she is industrious in the school-room, and aims to do ample justice to her pupils, but lacks somewhat in energy and good government. Time and experience will correct these deficiencies. The school made commendable progress, and the order was better than that in some other schools, but might be improved. The winter term was taught by Mrs. —— Wadleigh, of Laconia. She is a very good teacher—A No. 1. This school I failed to visit during the winter term, because I was not notified; but should have done so near its close, if it had not closed abruptly and unexpectedly, on account of the alarm of small-pox in the neighborhood.

The school in District No. 8 (Pike's), was taught both terms by Miss M. Celestia Plummer, of Gilford. She bids fair to make a very successful teacher. She has decision, which is very desirable, energy and promptness. There was trouble in this school, and the Committee were called in to settle it; and, although it was a fiery trial for the teacher, she came out of it as "gold seven times purified." Your Committee had no hesitation in sustaining the teacher to the fullest extent, and think she manifested a great degree of prudence under the circumstances. The order in the school was average, and the progress of the scholars creditable to them and to the teacher. The school-house in this district is now the best in town. It has been remodeled during the year, and is now a very neat and convenient house. We wish the other districts in town would follow so good an example.

The school in District No. 20, Center-Harbor, was taught in the summer by Miss Julia A. Davis, of Lake Village, the same person who taught in District No. 6. This is a union district, a part being in Center-Harbor and a part in Moultonborough and Meredith. As it did not devolve on the Committee of this town to visit that school the present year, we shall say nothing of its management or success. The winter term was taught by Mr. J. S. Dearborn, of Exeter, N. H.

No. 9. Meredith Center—new house. This school was taught each term by Miss Sarah E. Glidden, of that place. She is a teacher of limited experience; but, on the whole, has had very good success. Your Committee think she has not succeeded quite so well in discipline as she has in her endeavors to teach her pupils. We are happy to say the difficulty in this District has so far passed away that all the pupils receive the benefit of the school. We are surprised that the citizens did not take some pains, while they were building a new house, to build it in proper shape, when the expense would not have been any greater.

No. 10. Meredith Center. This school had but one term during the year, which was commenced by Miss Mary F. Howe, of New-Hampton, who taught two and one half weeks, and was then obliged to leave on account of sickness. She gave promise of being a thorough teacher. The school was finished by Miss E. A. Tuttle, of Meredith, who is a teacher of much experience, and we doubt not managed the school with good success. Your Committee did not visit the school at its close, on account of being incorrectly notified; therefore he can not speak of the progress made.

No. 11. Dolloff District. This school had but one term for the year, which was taught by Miss Almira E. Crawford, of Alexandria. She is a teacher of some experience, and has managed this school with very noticeable success. Your Committee was particularly satisfied with the apparent order of the school. The progress made was very good.

No. 12. Jacob Perkins District. Both terms were taught by Miss M. F. Perkins, of that District, who has well sustained her reputation as a good teacher. I visited the school twice each term, and feel well satisfied with it, and with the progress made. This teacher has clearly proved that music hath its charms, even in the school-room. The citizens may well rest assured that their school has been very profitable during the year.

No. 13. Edgerly District. This school had but one term for the year, which was taught by Mrs. C. J. Swain, of that District. An unusual degree of interest was manifested by the scholars; hence their thoroughness, and the rapidity of their progress was not surpassed by any school I visited.

No. 14. Union District, with New-Hampton. This school was not under the care of your Committee during the past year, but I visited it

once each term, and am pleased to say the district has been favored with excellent schools. This district shows plainly the benefit of a succession of good teachers.

No. 15. James Wadleigh District. This school had but one term for the year, which was again under the care of Miss Julia A. Wallace, of New-Hampton. She is a teacher of limited experience, and in some particulars has succeeded well. Your Committee think the progress of the scholars would have been much greater had better order been maintained, and the directions in regard to books been more fully carried out.

No. 16. Eastman District. This school was under the instruction of Miss Mary A. Bugbee, of Lake Village. This was her first school, but she manifested considerable energy in the school-room, and has met with merited success. The progress made was commendable, and your Committee regard this as a profitable term of school.

No. 17. Fox District. This school was taught each term by Miss Josephine E. Hodgdon, of Sanbornton. This was her first experience in a town school, but she has acquitted herself well, and exceeded the Committee's expectation. The pupils have made very good progress, considering the shortness of the school—only six weeks each term. Miss Hodgdon has taught two terms, of six weeks each, of private school in this district during the year.

CHARLES BURNHAM, }
HOSEA S. SWAIN, } *S. S. Committee.*

MEREDITH, March 3, 1862.



